



GRANT RECIPIENT
IDNR DIVISION OF
NATURE PRESERVES

YEAR
2008

COUNTY
LAKE

CATEGORY
LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

GRANT AWARD
\$15,000

LOCAL SHARE
\$15,000



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
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Chesterton, IN 46304
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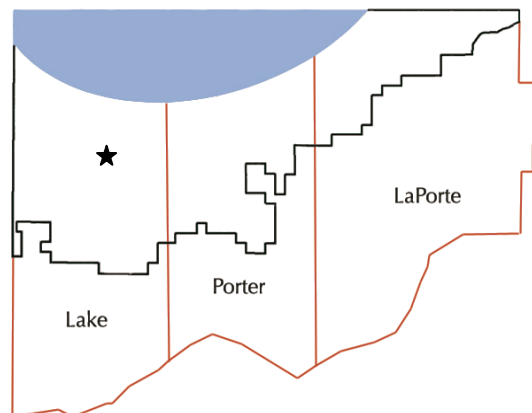


Cressmoor Prairie Woody Reduction

At 38 acres in size, Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve is the largest example of a rare mesic black soil prairie in the state of Indiana. A history of fire suppression, habitat fragmentation and hydrologic alterations has severely impacted this high-quality natural community. The primary and immediate threat to the continued health of this remnant natural area is succession and invasion by woody species: mainly dogwoods, honeysuckle, viburnum, and autumn olive.

The preserve required a large-scale disturbance to re-set the vegetation structure to a sustainable state that can be easily maintained in the future with prescribed fires. Practices included mechanical removal of brush (shrubs) and tree species throughout the prairie, with herbicide applications in the densest infestations. Contractors were hired to mow brush and remove trees in addition to conducting foliar herbicide applications to resprouts on 15 acres of the property.

Mowing served as an effective fire surrogate in areas of less dense woody growth. This systematic process allowed sufficient control in the short term, while helping to preserve the rich insect community until a desirable and effective fire regime can be implemented across the property. The final result will be an estimated 95% reduction of the occurrence of woody species on 15 acres.



RESULT: Reduced invasive occurrence by 95% on 38 acres of prairie.